

Appln No. 09/892,242

Amdt date April 27, 2005

Reply to Office action of January 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 34, and 36 have been amended. The amendments find support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the specification have been made on pages 5, 13, and 21 according to the Examiner's comments and recommendations. The amendments do not add any new matter. Entry of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 7-10, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 19, 21, 24, 26, 34, and 36, in the light of the Examiner's comments, to overcome the rejection. Regarding claims 7 and 8, the antecedent basis for "the expanded first bit sequence" is found in one of the limitations of independent claim 1, from which claims 7 and 8 depend, that recites an "expansion logic coupled to the multiplexer circuitry, the expansion logic configured to expand a first bit sequence having a first size to an expanded first bit sequence

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having a second size greater than the first size, the first bit sequence corresponding to a portion of the data block".

(Emphasis added). Regarding claim 28, the antecedent basis for "the expanded first bit sequence" is found in one of the limitations of claim 23, from which claim 28 depends, that recites an "expansion logic coupled to the multiplexer circuitry, the expansion logic configured to expand a first bit sequence having a first size to an expanded first bit sequence having a second size greater than the first size, the first bit sequence corresponding to a portion of the data block."

(Emphasis added). Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-19, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-34, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,769,063) in view of Callum (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,964). Applicants have amended the independent claims and respectfully submit that these claims, as amended, overcome the rejection.

Claims 1 and 23 are amended to both include the limitation of "a plurality of logic devices simulating an XOR operation for combining a key provided by the key scheduler with a particular bit sequence corresponding to the portion of the data block, the plurality of logic devices including a multiplexer receiving first and second inputs and an OR logic combining an output of

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the multiplexer with a third input, the first, second, and third inputs being derived from the key provided by the key scheduler." Support for this amendment is found, for example, in figure 7 and in the written description of this figure. (See e.g., Specification, page 18, lines 20-28, page 20, lines 15-27). The combination of Kanda and Callum fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claims 1 and 23. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that claims 2-22 and 24-37 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

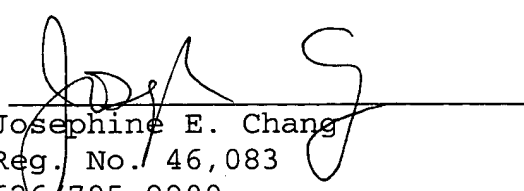
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 1-37.

A request for substitution of attorney with change of address for correspondence by assignee is enclosed. Please direct future correspondence to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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